

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below, in which deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. Also, please add new claims 11-13 as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A casting die ~~(12)~~ made of a steel material, wherein a compressive residual stress of a cavity surface is larger than 1000 MPa, a maximum height ~~(R_y)~~ is not more than 16 μm , and a nitrided layer ~~(32)~~ is provided at a surface layer of said cavity surface.
2. (Currently amended) The casting die ~~(12)~~ according to claim 1, wherein a Vickers hardness of said cavity surface is not less than 700, a thickness of said nitrided layer ~~(32)~~ is not less than 0.03 mm, and said steel material is alloy tool steel.
3. (Currently amended) The casting die ~~(12)~~ according to claim 1, wherein a Vickers hardness of said cavity surface is not less than 700, a thickness of said nitrided layer ~~(32)~~ is not less than 0.1 mm, and said steel material is chrome molybdenum steel.
4. (Currently amended) The casting die ~~(12)~~ according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein said compressive residual stress of said cavity surface is larger than 1200 MPa, and said maximum height ~~(R_y)~~ is not more than 8 μm .
5. (Currently amended) The casting die ~~(12)~~ according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein said nitrided layer ~~(32)~~ contains iron sulfide.

6. (Currently amended) A surface treatment method of a casting die (12) made of a steel material, comprising applying a shot peening treatment and a nitriding treatment to at least a cavity surface of said casting die (12) so that a maximum height (R_y) of said cavity surface is not more than 16 μm , and a compressive residual stress is larger than 1000 MPa.

7. (Currently amended) The surface treatment method of said casting die (12) according to claim 6, wherein said nitriding treatment is performed after applying said shot peening treatment.

8. (Currently amended) The surface treatment method of said casting die (12) according to claim 7, wherein said shot peening treatment is carried out again after applying said nitriding treatment so that said maximum height (R_y) of said cavity surface is not more than 8 μm , and said compressive residual stress is larger than 1200 MPa.

9. (Currently amended) The surface treatment method of said casting die (12) according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~, wherein said nitriding treatment is a sulphonitriding treatment or a gas nitriding treatment ~~by~~ using nitriding gas.

10. (Currently amended) The surface treatment method of said casting die (12) according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 9~~, wherein said surface treatment method is applied to said casting die (12) ~~having~~ after the die has been used for casting operation.

11. (New) The casting die according to claim 2, wherein said nitrided layer contains iron sulfide.

12. (New) The casting die according to claim 3, wherein said nitrided layer contains iron

sulfide.

13. (New) The surface treatment method of said casting die according to claim 8, wherein said surface treatment method is applied to said casting die after the die has been used for casting operation.